

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SCCT-01

DHA-02 /100 W

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R 121431Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8015

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL TANGIER

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR NO SP SS AG MR

SUBJECT: SAHARA ROUNDUP

1. ARAB LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. QUOTING EGYPTIAN DAILY AL AHAM
SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN MARCH 10 REPORTED THAT AL SEC GEN RIAD
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WOULD BE SUBMITTING "SECRET" REPORT ON SAHARA AT MARCH 15 FONMINS

MEETING. STORY QUOTED "ARAB SOURCES" IN CAIRO AS EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT POLISARIO WOULD BE ADMITTED TO AL AS MEMBER. SOURCES ALSO SAID AL "COULD NOT PERMIT ITSELF" TO "LOSE" MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA.

2. GOM PUBLISHES "BIO" DATA ON SDAR LEADERS. OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP MARCH 10 PUBLISHED ITS OWN BIOGRAPHIC REGISTER ON MEMBERS NEWLY-DECLARED SAHARAN GOVERNMENT. OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF STORY TO DISCREDIT "SAHARAN" CREDENTIALS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS. PRIMIN AL AMIN, STORY CLAIMED, BORN IN TARFAYA AND FAMILY NOW IN TAN TAN (INSIDE MOROCCO). MININFO SALIM AND MINFINANCE MOHAMED ALI ALSO SAID TO BE FROM TARFAYA. FONMIN HAKIM IBRAHIM'S "REAL" NAME WAS IBRAHIM OULD DERWICH. STORY REVEALED HE A MAURITANIAN NATIONAL WHO FORMERLY IN MAURITANIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. ANOTHER MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT, MANSUR OULD OMAR, WAS MAURITANIAN. STORY SAID ALL THREE FORMER TARFAYANS WERE EDUCATED IN MOROCCO.

3. RECOGNITION TO DATE. OUR TABULATION OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF SDAR TO DATE AS FOLLOWS. FORMAL RECOGNITION: ALGERIA, ANGOLA, BENIN, BURUNDI, MADAGASCAR, AND MOZAMBIQUE. ANGOLA'S RECOGNITION, ANNOUNCED MARCH 11, WAS SECOND, AFTER ALGERIA, BY GOVERNMENT HAVING RELATIONS WITH GOM. (NEITHER GOVERNMENT HAS AS YET SET UP REPRESENTATION IN THE OTHER'S CAPITAL.) GOM HAS YET TO RESPOND TO RECOGNITIONS OTHER THAN BY ALGERIA. LIBYA, CHAD, NIGERIA AND GUINEA HAVE EXPRESSED QUALIFIED DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO BUT TO DATE HAVE STOPPED SHORT OF FORMAL RECOGNITION.

4. SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 8 THAT BREAK WITH ALGERIA HAD BEEN "INEVITABLE PREVENTIVE MOVE," ONE WHICH HAD TO BE ACCOMPLISHED QUICKLY, ESPECIALLY TO FORESTALL LIBYAN RECOGNITION OF SDAR. THESE MOROCCANS ALL STRESSED THAT IT NOT "HIGH INTENSITY MOVE" OR INTENDED AS SIGNIFICANT ESCALATION.

5. ALGERIAN ECHOES. SEMI-OFFICIAL MOROCCAN MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO RUN VARIOUS STORIES AND DECLARATIONS ON ALLEGED OPPOSITION TO ALGERIAN REGIME. MARCH 10 LE MATIN PUBLISHED LONG STATEMENT FROM "ALGERIAN SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY" CRITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF BOUMEDIENE AND CALLING FOR INTERVENTION BY ALGERIAN MASSES AND "DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION" TO ALGERIA'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS. ONE NOTEWORTHY PORTION OF STATEMENT CALLED TENSIONS DANGEROUS TO MAGHREB BECAUSE THIS "OPENS DOOR TO MANEUVERS OF TWO SUPER POWERS, WHICH SEEKING MORE SCOPE FOR AFRICAN CONFRONTATION."

6. MARCH 11 LE MATIN CARRIED STORY ON RECENT BOMBINGS OF ALGERIAN INSTALLATIONS ABROAD. STORY CITED NERVOUS SECURITY SITUATION

INSIDE ALGERIA AND RAN INSERT OF ANTI-BOUMEDIENE PAMPHLET ALLEGEDLY CIRCULATING IN EUROPE.

7. MARCH 12 SEMI-OFFICIAL AND OPPOSITION PRESS FRONT-PAGED STORIES ON ALGERIAN OPPOSITION TRACT SIGNED BY FERHAT ABBAS AND YOUSSEF BENKHADDA, STRESSING APPEAL AGAINST CONFLICT WITH MOROCCO AND DENUNCIATION OF PERSONAL RULE IN ALGERIA.

8. ALGERIAN EMBOFF COMMENTING TO EMBOFF ON EARLIER ANTI-ALGERIAN STORIES APPEARING IN MOROCCAN PRESS, DISMISSED THEM WITH CHARGE THAT THEY FREQUENTLY WRITTEN BY PERENNIAL ALGERIAN OPPOSITIONIST MOHAMED LEBJAOU.

9. NEW GOM CHARGES THAT ALGERIANS HOLDING SAHARANS AGAINST THEIR WILL. MAP MARCH 10, QUOTING SAHARANS WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY ESCAPED FROM "CAMP OF SEQUESTRATION" IN ALGERIA, CHARGED THAT ALGERIANS KEEPING MANY OTHERS THERE BY FORCE, DESPITE THEIR DESIRE TO RETURN TO SAHARA. ONE SUCH GROUP OF YOUTHS WISHING TO RETURN HAD BEEN "ASSASSINATED" BY ALGERIANS, THESE SOURCES QUOTED AS SAYING.

10. OPPOSITION COMMENTARY. BOTH USFP AND ISTIQLAL ORGANS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE BEGUN TO POUND THEME THAT MOROCCO MUST INTRODUCE DEMOCRATIC ELEMENT INTO ITS LEADERSHIP SO AS TO MOBILIZE NATION'S EFFORTS MORE EFFECTIVELY TO FACE CRISIS. WHILE OPPOSITION MEDIA OUTPUT CONTINUED TO BE HARSHLY CRITICAL OF ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT, THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME COORDINATION OF POLICY BY TWO PARTIES IN PUSHING FOR ELECTIONS.

11. TRAVELS. A NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS WHOSE VOYAGES APPEARED PROMPTED AT LEAST IN PART BY SAHARA CONCERNS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN RECENT DAYS. SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR, ENROUTE TO PARIS, ARRIVED MARCH 11 AND LUNCHEDED WITH KING. GUINEAN MIN HIGHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EDUCATION CAMARA LEFT MARCH 10 FOLLOWING FOUR-DAY VISIT DURING WHICH HE SAW KING AND DELIVERED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SEKOU TOURE. FONMIN LARAKI AND ADMIN AFFAIRS MCE MOHAMED BENYAKHLEF VISITED NOUAKCHOTT MARCH 9, POSSIBLY TO FINALIZE DETAILS OF SAHARA SHARING. PHOSPHATES DIRECTOR KARIM LAMRANI INSPECTED BOU CRAA INSTALLATIONS MARCH 11, AND REPORTEDLY MET IN EL AYOUN WITH SPANISH BOU CRAA TECHNICIANS. FINALLY, MININFO BENHIMA VISITED LIBREVILLE MARCH 9 TO ATTEND CELEBRATIONS OF STAUNCH MOROCCO BACKER BONGO'S EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY IN POWER. COON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, SELFDETERMINATION, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RABAT01430
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0961
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760366/aaaacgfk.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA ROUNDUP
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PDEV, SP, SS, AG, MR, MO, POLISARIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006